

### Claim Amendments

1. (currently amended) A connector axial compression tool having a lever end and a cable end, comprising:  
  
a body;  
  
a cable clamp coupled to the cable end of a cavity formed in the body;  
  
a cradle slidably mounted within the cavity supporting  
  
a shoulder clamp;  
  
a lever mechanism coupled to the cradle and slidably mounted through the body; and  
  
a handle pivotally attached to the body and the lever mechanism operable to actuate axial movements of the cradle,  
  
the cradle adapted to support a connector body of the connector without causing interference to a connector interface of the connector.
2. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cable clamp is removably attached.
3. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cable clamp is biased into a closed position.
4. (original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the cable clamp is biased into a closed position by a spring.
5. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cradle has the form of a box with an open side.
6. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cradle has the form of a U-shaped bracket.

7. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cradle is removably attached to the cable end of the lever mechanism.
8. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the shoulder clamp is retained by slots formed in the cradle.
9. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the shoulder clamp is removably attached to the cable end of the cradle.
10. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the shoulder clamp is formed in the cable end of the cradle.
11. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, further including a clamp arm hingeably attached to the shoulder clamp.
12. (original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the shoulder clamp and the clamp arm are retainable in a closed position by a magnetic contact.
13. (original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the shoulder clamp and the clamp arm are retainable in a closed position by one of a clasp, a latch, a pin, a spring, a screw, and a clip.
14. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, further including a mounting hole in the body for mounting the compression tool to a desired surface.
15. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cable clamp is adapted to abut the cable end of a cable clamp sleeve of the connector.

16. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cable clamp forms an inner diameter that is less than a cable clamp sleeve diameter of the connector and greater than a cable diameter.
17. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the shoulder clamp is adapted to retain a compression shoulder of the connector.
18. (canceled)
19. (withdrawn) A method for axially compressing a connector by a compression shoulder on a connector body against a cable clamp sleeve of the connector, comprising the steps of:  
positioning the compression shoulder of the connector body onto an axially movable shoulder clamp of a compression tool;  
abutting the cable clamp sleeve against a cable clamp of the compression tool; and  
actuating the compression tool to axially compress the shoulder clamp and the cable clamp toward one another.
20. (withdrawn) A method of manufacturing an axial compression tool having a lever end and a cable end, comprising the steps of:  
forming a body;  
coupling a cable clamp to the cable end of a cavity formed in the body;  
slidably mounting a cradle supporting a shoulder clamp within the cavity;  
coupling a lever mechanism to the cradle and slidably mounting it through the body; and  
pivotally attaching a handle to the body and the lever mechanism operable to engage axial movements of the cradle.
21. (original) A connector axial compression tool having a lever end and a cable end, comprising:  
a body;

a cable clamp having an inner diameter that is less than a cable clamp sleeve diameter of the connector and greater than a cable diameter coupled to the cable end of a cavity formed in the body;

a cradle slidably mounted within the cavity supporting a shoulder clamp;

a lever mechanism coupled to the cradle and slidably mounted through the body;

a handle pivotally attached to the body and the lever mechanism operable to actuate axial movements of the cradle;

a clamp arm hingeably attached to the shoulder clamp;

a magnetic contact adapted to retain the shoulder clamp and the clamp arm in a closed position; and

a mounting hole in the body for mounting the compression tool to a desired surface;

the cradle adapted to support a connector body of the connector without interference with a connector interface of the connector.